

# 4x4 Adventure Tours Ltd

## ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Dear Customer

The purpose of this document is to ensure that you are informed of the major foreseeable risks, dangers and of course benefits, prior to participating in an event with 4x4 Adventure Tours Ltd. Attendance on the day is on the understanding that you have read and understood this document and agree to accept its contents and had time to ask questions.

### Background

4x4 Adventure Tours Ltd organises day, weekend and mutiday guided green lane trips for owners of 4x4 vehicles. These trips involve driving routes that include unsealed or unclassified country roads (UCR) and byways open to all traffic. (BOATs). All routes are on legal highways.

UCRs and BOATs are commonly known as green lanes. Many of these lanes are only accessible by a motor vehicle with good ground clearnce and 4x4 drive system

Guided tours offer a great way of accessing the myriad of green lanes that exist in England and Wales. Our tours allow you to access the research and knowledge of an experienced guide. This ensures that you drive on the best lanes an area has to offer and that the routes taken are legal, suitable for your vehicle and sustainable. Many of these greenlanes would not be suitable to be driven with a single vehicle. Driving in small groups is a safer alternative.

Vehicles in the countryside can be an emotive issue and it is imperative that greenlaning is undertaken in a responsible manner. 4X4 Adventure Tours Ltd adheres to the Glass Greenlane Code of Conduct and the Countryside code. All routes are pre-driven and checked for legal vehicular rights with no traffic regulation orders in place before each tour.

Taking a tour with 4x4 Adventure Tours Ltd should offer you an enjoyable, safe and hassle free way to enjoy the countryside with your 4x4.

### Q&A

#### **WHY NOT GO OUT ON YOUR OWN?**

One of the first rules of greenlaning is not venture out in a single vehicle. For safety and security a minimum of 2 vehicles is recommended. 4X4 Adventure Tours Ltd offers you a great way to travel with like minded enthusiasts as part of a small group,

#### **IS MY 4X4 SUITABLE?**

4x4 Adventure Tours Ltd are open to all makes of 4x4 vehicle with a high/low ratio transfer box. Unfortunately this means no SUVs (Freelander's and the like) due to ground clearance issues on many routes.

#### **WILL MY VEHICLE GET DAMAGED?**

With careful route selection and careful driving it is highly unlikely your vehicle will sustain any damage, however due to the nature of the activity and the variations in driving styles this can **never** be fully guaranteed. The most likely for concern is light scuffing from overgrown vegetation. If your paintwork is particularly shiny – as with a new vehicle – then please inquire first as some routes are more suitable than others.

## **HOW LONG ARE THE ROUTES?**

Routes average 50 – 60 miles and this usually entails 6-7 hours driving. We start around 9am and aim to finish around 4-5pm depending on the conditions. We meet in a pre-arranged location normally close to the starting point of the tour.

## **WILL THE TRIP RUN IN BAD WEATHER?**

Yes, the trips run in all weathers, although alterations to the route may be made in exceptional circumstances (Significant Snow).

## **ARE THE TRIPS SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN AND DOGS?**

Yes, children are very welcome. These tours are a great way for children to experience the countryside, although it can be a long day, so we would suggest they have something to keep them entertained in the back of the car. Well behaved dogs are welcome but must be kept under suitable control at all times, especially near livestock.

## **RISKS**

All activities that involve driving vehicles carry the potential risk for serious injury or even death. This includes driving 4x4 vehicles on greenlanes. While the same potential risks exist of a road traffic accident as would exist for driving along any road, there are some additional risks that customers partaking in a tour should be aware of.

### **Driving in Convoy**

Risk - Front or rear collision or driver unsighted by vehicles in front  
Mitigation of risk - Ensure sufficient distance is maintained between vehicles. Observe braking distances suitable for conditions and road surface

### **Driving for long periods of time**

Risk - Excessive tiredness and lack of concentration  
Mitigation of Risk - Regular breaks are provided approximately every 90 mins. Should you not feel confident of continuing at any point stop at the first safe opportunity and discuss with the guide.

### **Driving on small/narrow country roads**

Risk - Customers may not be used too or comfortable with driving on small roads with multiple hazards.  
Mitigation of Risk- Only drive at a pace you are comfortable with. Do not try to keep pace with the vehicle in front. With convey rules being obeyed vehicles in front and the Guide will slow to your pace.

### **Vehicle Roll Over**

Risk- Vehicle rollover  
Mitigation of risk- Do not drive with excessive speed. Do not attempt a difficult section without reviewing it on foot first and discussing the preferred route with the guide. Do not reverse without an external person, preferable the guide, monitoring your progress

### **Vehicle recovery utilising rope or winch**

Risk Vehicle recovery often involves significant amounts of energy to be applied to a vehicle via a rope or a winch. Any equipment failure could result in serious injury to you all those around you.  
Mitigation of risk Ensure your vehicle is fitted with proper offroad recovery points as recommended in the preparation guide. Do not tow another vehicle or allow your vehicle to be towed without the supervision of the guide. Stand well clear of all vehicles either recovering or being recovered and any ropes, cables or strops. Especially stand well clear of any winch cables. Kinetic recovery ropes are not recommended and must not be used without the express permission of the guide. Steel winch ropes are not recommended and should not be used without the express permission of the guide.

### **Water Hazards**

Risk Drowning

Mitigation of Risk	Do not enter a water hazard without permission from the guide. Do not enter a water hazard if you are unable to swim confidently. Be especially carefully in and around fast moving water, even when observing from the bank. When driving deep water, ensure windows are in the fully open/down position and seats belts are not worn, to enable a fast exit from the vehicle if required. If a local alternative safe crossing exist for passengers i.e. a foot bridge, please consider asking them to use it. A safe vehicular alternative route always exists. Ask the Guide for this alternative.
<b>Uneven surfaces</b>	
Risk	Risk to both person and vehicle due to uneven surfaces
Mitigation of Risk	Uneven surfaces are to be expected. Be prepared. Ensure you vehicle is suitable to tackle uneven surfaces and always wear a seat belt. Ensure you wear suitable outdoor footwear, that is also suitable to drive in. Be mindful of obstructions especially when getting into or out of vehicles.
<b>Use of tools including shovels, pickaxes, saws and chainsaws and hand winches.</b>	
Risk	Injury to person/s while using tools
Mitigation of risk	Do not use tools without the express permission of the Guide. It is sometimes necessary to use common garden tools and saws to remove obstacles especially tress and fallen branches. If advised by the guide to uses such tools be mindful of your own safety and of the safety of those around you. Stay especially clear of power tools such as chain saws are being used.
<b>Gates</b>	
Risk	It is often necessary to open and close farm gates. These can be heavy and awkward.
Mitigation of risk	Take care especially if gate is heavy or damaged. If you have difficulty request assistance from the Guide.

## SAFETY RULES

**Always** read the preparation guide before a tour.

**Always** listen and take note of the Safety Briefing given at the start of each session.

**Always** obey instructions from the Guide

Do **NOT** drink alcohol, smoke or take illegal drugs before or during the tour.

**Breach** of these rules means you will be disqualified from the tour.

**Photography** - Consent for you, your passengers and your vehicle to be photographed or named in the media for our publicity purposes will be deemed to have automatically been given in consideration for them being able to participate in a tour.

**Vehicle Operation and Driving** – You are responsible for the operation and driving of your vehicle. By your participation in a tour you accept that you hold a full valid driving license, the vehicle is fully road legal (in good safe working order and is taxed, tested and insured for road use within the United Kingdom) and you have read and fully understood the vehicle manufactures operating instructions and that you are confident in your ability to follow these instruction as required.

**Preparation Guide** – It is assumed you have read and understood the preparation guide with respect to both yourself, your passengers and your vehicle. Please ensure that any questions arising from this are answered to your satisfaction before giving your consent.

**Clothing** – Please ensure you have appropriate clothing, footwear to venture out into the countryside.

**Passengers** – You as the driver of a vehicle, are responsible for any passengers conduct and safety. Please ensure any passengers are fully aware of the risks and safety rules set out in this document. No passenger may drive a vehicle on a tour, unless they fully understand what exactly they are participating in. That they have read this document and the preparation guide, associated risk assessment and participated in the driver briefing. They must also hold a full valid driving license and be insured for the vehicle

**Pets** – You must keep your pet under control at all times and in line with the countryside code.

4X4 Adventure Tours Ltd Staff reserve the right to inspect evidence of identity and age, driving credentials and vehicle documents.